

# *News Clippings*

## *February 3, 2009*

### **Emergency Response**

#### **Indianapolis**

Indiana Humvees Going to Kentucky

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Indianapolis**

Indiana lending support to storm-ravaged Kentucky

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Indianapolis**

Caution Urged With Generator Use

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Evansville**

Intelligence gathering eyed

[Read the Article](#)

### **Fire**

#### **Fort Wayne**

Detectors pick up fires differently

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Muncie**

State looking for leads in Heritage Hall fire

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Muncie**

Heritage Hall school will be closed longer than expected

[Read the Article](#)

## **Flooding**

### **Crown Point**

Flood survivors can get additional aid

[Read the Article](#)

## **Severe Weather**

### **Muncie**

Snow headaches continue as winds pick up

[Read the Article](#)

### **Indianapolis**

Guard soldiers come to rescue of the powerless

[Read the Article](#)

### **Evansville**

Weather-related deaths reported

[Read the Article](#)

### **Indianapolis**

Indiana Not Yet Seeking Federal Disaster Status After Storm

[Read the Article](#)

### **Evansville**

What Does the “State of Emergency“ Mean for You?

[Read the Article](#)

### **Indianapolis**

Federal storm aid not likely, officials say

[Read the Article](#)



## Indiana Humvees Going to Kentucky

By Amber Stearns

2/2/2009

Indiana equipment is headed down to Kentucky to help in disaster relief.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security spokeswoman Rachel Meyer says Kentucky officials called Sunday morning to request vehicles for their continued disaster recovery following last week's winter storm.

Indiana officials collected 100 humvees from National Guard armories around the state.

The vehicles were taken to New Albany, Evansville and Camp Atterbury.

Kentucky National Guard troops flew to Indiana to drive the vehicles back down south.

Meyer says the state is still in good condition to respond to any request for aid within the state should the need arise.

A five-member team from Indiana is also working in Kentucky at their Emergency Operations Center.

The team consists of 3 members from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, one Indiana National Guard member and one member of Indiana Task Force One.

[Back to Emergency Response](#)

## Indiana lending support to storm-ravaged Kentucky

**WTHR-TV**

updated 8:28 a.m. ET, Mon., Feb. 2, 2009

Indianapolis - Indiana is lending its support to Kentucky after that state was hit hard by last week's storms.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Indiana National Guard will deliver 100 humvees to New Albany, Evansville and Camp Atterbury. The vehicles will be picked up by Kentucky National Guard troops.

In addition, a five-person team from Indiana will report to the Kentucky Emergency Operations Center in Frankfort. The team will consist of three members of the IDHS, along with one person each from the National Guard and Indiana Task Force One. The team will provide operations relief to Kentucky personnel.

The IDHS and other agencies and partner organizations in the state have been working closely with local emergency management agencies to determine needs that would require support beyond the county level.

According to a release, all local requests have been fulfilled and no federal assistance has been required.

[Back to Emergency Response](#)

## **Caution Urged With Generator Use**

Reported by: *Web Producer*

*Wednesday, Jan 28, 2009 @03:23pm CST*

News Release:

From: National Fire Protection Association & Indiana Department of Homeland Security

### Unsafe Use of Generators Can Result in Carbon Monoxide Death

INDIANAPOLIS – Portable electric generators are used by many families and businesses to combat power outages, and have become an increasing cause of death, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

In light of hazardous conditions due to snow and ice occurring in southern and central Indiana, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is urging caution with the use of generators.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates that there were an estimated 75 carbon monoxide poisoning deaths in 2005 and 2006. The most common dangers involving generators are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electrical shock or electrocution, and fire hazards, according to the NFPA.

To help keep you and your neighbors safe, IDHS and the NFPA recommend following these guidelines:

The generator should be outside and in a location so that exhaust fumes cannot enter the home through windows, doors or other building openings.

Battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with a battery back-up should be installed in the home, according to the manufacturer's installation instructions. Should CO enter the home and pose a risk, an alarm will sound.

The generator must not be refueled while it is running. The generator should be turned off and allowed to cool before refueling.

Fuel for the generator should never be stored in the home. Gasoline and other flammable liquids should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled safety containers. They should be stored away from any fuel-burning appliances such as a gas hot water heater.

Appliances should be plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cord should be checked for cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin. The house wiring should not be powered by plugging the generator into a wall outlet.

If the generator must be connected to the house wiring to power appliances, a qualified electrician should install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds and someone in the home is experiencing symptoms, immediately evacuate and call 911. At moderate levels of CO poisoning, you or your family can get severe headaches, become dizzy, mentally confused, nauseated, or faint. Low levels of CO can cause shortness of breath, mild nausea, and mild headaches, and may have longer term

effects on your health.

If the alarm goes off and no one has symptoms, air out the home, turn off fuel-burning appliances and reset the carbon monoxide alarm. If elevated levels remain, the alarm will sound again after approximately six minutes. If the alarm sounds again, call a qualified heating contractor for inspection. Don't use any fuel-burning appliances until they have been inspected.

[Back to Emergency Response](#)

INDIANAPOLIS — As the George W. Bush administration drew to a close Tuesday, Indiana lawmakers were dealing with some unfinished business from the post-9/11 era and its enhanced security measures.

A state Senate committee passed a bill that would rephrase Indiana law to mirror federal law concerning law enforcement's gathering of criminal intelligence. That would include tips, data and suspicions about possible crimes afoot and individuals participating in them.

Senate Bill 251 deals specifically with the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center, a high-tech room of computers and intelligence analysts in the basement of the state government complex in Downtown Indianapolis. The center reviews crime tips coming in from around the state and decides if they merit forwarding to the FBI, federal authorities or police agencies statewide.

Opened in 2006 as a division of the state Department of Homeland Security, the Indiana fusion center is intended to help law enforcers "connect the dots" by forming conclusions about possible criminal activity.

"We are finally bringing down all these impairments we had to doing good intelligence," Sen. Thomas Wyss said. As chairman of the Senate Transportation, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs Committee, Wyss, R-Fort Wayne, authored Senate Bill 251, which passed the committee 7-0 on Tuesday.

The fusion center's executive director, Maj. Monte McKee, testified the center receives tips from local police or the general public about suspicious activity that a team of analysts reviews.

"Once we have something that really meets that threshold, then we share that data with national security authorities, which would be the FBI and the local police agencies to say, 'There's been some suspicious activity reported, we've looked at it, we've analyzed it, we feel it meets the threshold of intelligence,'" McKee said.

That, in turn, could launch a formal investigation by the appropriate department, be it the FBI, Indiana State Police or some other agency.

McKee emphasized that the fusion center is a resource for local law enforcement, but does not conduct crime investigations or surveillance itself.

"We don't go out and spy on people," he said.

The upshot of Wyss' legislation is that it raises the legal burden of proof — making it more restrictive — for the fusion center to be able to pass along information. Current law calls for a nebulous "if-grounds-exist" standard, whereas Wyss' bill would make that threshold a "reasonable suspicion" standard.

"The federal law is a newer body of law, and it's a more substantive body of law. We're required to comply with both," McKee said.

No one testified against the bill Tuesday or raised civil liberties concerns about it. Two phone messages seeking comment about the bill were left with the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana.

Having passed in committee, Senate Bill 251 now advances to the full Senate. If it passes there, it would go to the House.

When the Indiana fusion center opened in 2006, then-U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff visited and toured the facility. In the Obama administration, Chertoff's designated replacement as U.S. homeland security secretary is Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano.

McKee said the early indication he is getting is that the federal department under the new administration would have continued emphasis on state fusion centers in sifting through criminal intelligence.

[Back to Emergency Response](#)





## Detectors pick up fires differently

### Those at complex work best in very hot fires, heavy smoke

A week ago today, while a building at the Willows of Coventry apartments still was smoldering hours after it caught fire, two displaced residents told how they awoke that morning not to the sound of a smoke alarm, but to a roommate's coughing from the heavy smoke in their apartment.

That could be true, based on the type of smoke detectors inside the Willows buildings.

The Willows have ionization detectors installed in apartments, according to Douglas S. Hastings, a spokesman for DEI Communities, the Omaha, Neb.-based company that runs the apartments. Ionization smoke detectors are the most common fire detector on the market, with several news sources stating that 93 percent of U.S. homes have ionization detectors. This is primarily because they are the least expensive at \$5 to \$10.

Basically, if a fire begins in an adjoining room - or apartment, in this case - an ionization smoke detector likely would not pick up that type of high-temperature smoke. In most cases, it will take nearly filling a room with smoke before the alarm would sound. This unit is designed to detect the smoke from hot fires with large flames.

In this type of detector, the radiation from smoke will pass through a space filled with air that lies between two electrodes, called an ionization chamber. The chamber contains a tiny and constant current that flows between the two electrodes. When smoke enters the chamber, the smoke dilutes the device's ionization and, thus, disturbs that current, triggering an alarm, according to [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com).

In the Willows fire, photoelectric detectors might have been more effective.

Photoelectric detectors sense light, or lack thereof. The detector is made up of an incandescent bulb or infrared LED, a lens that collimates light into a beam and an angled sensor that detects that light, according to [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com).

In a clear room, light will freely pass in front of that detector. In a smoke-filled room, however, that beam picks up the smoke and becomes scattered, sending frayed beams to the sensor and triggering an alarm, the site said.

Photoelectric detectors, which typically cost between \$10 and \$15, are best at detecting

the smoke from cooler, smoldering fires that produce more smoke than flames initially.

However, officials have said that one detector is no better than the other, and neither the Fort Wayne Fire Department nor Indiana State Fire Marshall James L. Greeson suggested one over the other. They are specialized units and designed to detect specific smokes from specific fires.

The Fort Wayne Fire Department did say after the fire was cleared that alarms in the building were working properly.

The best bet with fire and smoke detectors is a dual-sensor, the most effective smoke detector because it combines the technology of both photoelectric and ionization detectors, Greeson said.

Dual-sensor alarms are more expensive, costing between \$25 and \$30 on average.

"It's somewhat more expensive, but to be safe and sure, if someone wanted to have a combination of an ionization and a photoelectric, that probably would be the best to go with, if you can afford those," said Greeson.

[Back to Fire](#)

January 31, 2009

## Heritage Hall school will be closed longer than expected

The school has about \$900,000 in structural damage.

**By OSEYE T. BOYD**

*oboyd@muncie.gannett.com*

MUNCIE -- Heritage Hall Christian School won't be able to use the preschool and high school buildings until August -- months later than school officials originally anticipated.

The school recently settled the cost of structure damages with its insurance company. Structure damage was about \$900,000, Headmaster Dennis Ice said. Ice estimates the total cost including contents of the building to be around \$2 million. A settlement on the contents of the buildings has yet to be reached, but Ice said those costs range between \$800,000 to \$1 million.

The fire occurred in November, and school officials originally planned to be back in the high school by January.

The high school sustained substantial smoke damage. The fire started in the preschool building and all three classrooms were destroyed. Classrooms from both buildings were relocated across the road to the elementary building and Grace Baptist Church, which operates the private Christian school.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) continue to investigate the suspected arson. The agencies recently asked citizens with information about the fire to come forward.

"We're looking for some more leads," Indiana Department of Homeland Security Senior Public Information Officer John Erickson said.

When school starts in August, the layout of the buildings will be different. The school will use the renovation as an opportunity to move the preschool department to the elementary school where it has been located since the fire.

"We're trying to say, 'OK, now where should the preschool building be? It should be with the elementary,' Ice said. "We're going to enhance it in some degrees."

The old preschool building will become a recreation and education center that will offer tutoring, after-school programs and other activities for youth.

"We're going to be basically using the facility a little differently; hopefully, to enhance the high school," Ice said.

## Additional Facts

Need your help

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's office is asking citizens to provide information on a suspected arson fire that severely damaged Heritage Hall Christian School on Nov. 8. Authorities believe the fire was intentionally set in the pre-school area of the school, at 6401 W. River Road, about 2 a.m. that day.

There were no injuries or deaths, but damage has been estimated at about \$850,000.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) are heading the investigation. If you have information about the fire, you are urged to call the Arson Hotline at (800) 382-4628 or ATF at (888) ATF-FIRE.

[Back to Fire](#)

# Post-Tribune

## Flood survivors can get additional aid

(<http://www.post-trib.com/news/1405233.floodmoney.article>)

January 30, 2009

Diane Krieger Spivak

**Post-Tribune staff writer**

CROWN POINT -- Four months later, September's devastating floods are still affecting some 1,700 families in Lake Porter and LaPorte counties, officials say.

So, armed with a \$3.5 million Lilly grant through the 2008 Indiana Natural Disaster Fund, a philanthropic cooperative will open four locations in Northwest Indiana Monday and Feb. 9 to assess the needs of those who filed with FEMA and whose homes are still in need of flood repair.

Volunteers from Christian Reformed World Relief Committee Disaster Response program, called the Green Shirts, will be stationed at walk-in centers in Munster, Gary, Valparaiso and Lake Station to prioritize and conduct survivors' needs assessments, said Mark Kurowski, director of Lake Shore Area Regional Recovery of Indiana.

"This grant will jumpstart case management and recovery services for families whose lives were turned completely upside down by the floods," LARRI President Steve Conger said.

The group is comprised of about 100 nonprofit and faith-based organizations, agencies and churches including the United Way.

"In Munster here some people are abandoning their homes because they just don't know what to do," Kurowski said. Some are still living in rental homes, others in homes that are gutted.

"Especially for the elderly, it's overwhelming," he said.

In other cases, homeowners may have an unmet need that FEMA doesn't cover.

"It could be as small as a sump pump or as big as tearing down the house and starting over," he said.

Recovery specialists will determine the need.

"We've got volunteers who are ready to start rebuilding," Kurowski said.

Contact Diane Krieger Spivak at 648-3076 or [dspivak@post-trib.com](mailto:dspivak@post-trib.com) Comment on this story at [www.post-trib.com](http://www.post-trib.com).

[Back to Flooding](#)

January 31, 2009

## Snow headaches continue as winds pick up

Delaware County officials upgraded the travel emergency as drifting became a problem; state officials are researching whether the area is eligible for snow removal reimbursement.

**By NICK WERNER**

MUNCIE -- The price tag on this week's winter storm continued to grow through Friday as government plow crews worked overtime to battle drifting snow.

Meanwhile, state officials are researching whether county and municipal governments will be eligible for federal disaster relief to offset snow removal costs.

Delaware County Highway Superintendent Duke Campbell said his office documented every penny spent this week in case the federal government agrees to provide reimbursement.

"Our payroll clerk will figure out the overtime hours and our purchasing agent is keeping track of our fuel usage," Campbell said.

County highway crews have been working almost non-stop since Tuesday night, stopping only between 6 p.m. Thursday and 1 a.m. Friday to rest men and equipment.

Campbell said Friday he did not yet have estimates for how much the snow storm cost county taxpayers.

To reach the threshold for federal assistance, Indiana must have experienced a record or near-record snowfall for the state, according to Rachel Meyer, spokeswoman for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

The highest recorded snowfall Wednesday was 16.3 inches in Owen County, according to National Weather Service.

The highest snowfall in a 24-hour period in Indiana was 22 inches in 2004 in Cannelton, near the Ohio River, according to the National Climatic Data Center.

Meyer said aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for individuals, such as homeowners, is unlikely because relatively little property damage has been reported in Indiana in connection with the snowfall.

Friday was another difficult day for the highway department as winds drifted snow across roads almost as fast as crews could clear them.

The Delaware County Emergency Management on Friday issued a level 2 emergency, restricting traffic to commuters and those with urgent business.

State police in the Redkey District reported troopers investigated 15 slideoffs and nine property damage accidents Friday, the majority of which were on I-69 in Grant County.

The storm has been linked to at least one man's death in East Central Indiana.

William Mincer, 64, 6750 N. Randolph County Road 650-W, who had a history of heart disease, died after shoveling his driveway.

*Reporter Rick Yencer contributed to this report.*

[Back to Severe Weather](#)



## Guard soldiers come to rescue of the powerless

By [Bryan Corbin](#) ([Contact](#))

Friday, January 30, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS — Soldiers from the Indiana National Guard have been busy this week transporting snowed-in residents who are without power to Red Cross shelters.

About 45 Guard soldiers were activated to assist victim relocation efforts after Southwestern Indiana was buried under snow and ice that knocked out electricity for tens of thousands.

Stranded residents who call the Evansville headquarters of the American Red Cross seeking a ride to shelters are picked up by Guard soldiers in Humvees.

"We have been hauling whoever they tell us to carry," said Maj. Mark South, executive officer of the Evansville-based 163rd Field Artillery.

The armory is a rendezvous point, and from there, storm victims ride on Metropolitan Evansville Transit Service buses to one of the Red Cross shelters, South said.

As of Friday afternoon, about 50 residents were seeking shelter in the Army Reserve Center west of Stockwell Road and the Lloyd Expressway.

The Evansville Red Cross headquarters across the Lloyd Expressway was sheltering 124 people. About 75 more were at another warming shelter at Washington Avenue Church of Christ, Red Cross spokeswoman Emily Zander said.

The Guard is dispatched by the Red Cross to ferry stranded residents based on calls Red Cross volunteers receive.

Zander felt a local TV news report Thursday about the Guard's transportation assignment was misleading.

"The whole discrepancy was the National Guard wasn't transporting people with wheelchairs," Zander said.

"That's completely false. I stood outside the door and watched the National Guard get somebody out and wheel them up to the drive."

But the Red Cross headquarters is not set up to shelter residents with special medical needs.

Staff can't transfer a wheelchair-bound patient from a chair to a toilet or cot, for example, Zander said.



So two residents whose medical needs couldn't be met at a shelter were referred to the Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency. Working with the local nursing home association, the EMA found temporary nursing home accommodations for them, EMA Deputy Director Adam Groupe said.

Any residents still snowed in at home without electricity who are wheelchair-bound or have other serious health concerns can call the EMA at 435-6020.

The agency will try to facilitate a ride for them using an ambulance or a wheelchair-van service, but the costs would be borne by the patient's insurance or Medicare and Medicaid.

"It's such little demand that we can go ahead and address each situation and give them one-on-one service and find the appropriate placement," Groupe said.

National Guard soldiers and Indiana Department of Transportation snowplows have been the most visible manifestation of state government during the snow emergency.

Experience with past storms led the Indiana Department of Homeland Security on Friday to caution the public about the possibility of price gouging because of real or perceived shortages of fuel or consumer goods.

"Scam artists come out during times of disasters. They are a vast minority of people, but they are the ones you hear about (who) try to cheat people," said John Erickson, homeland security department director.

Anyone who suspects price gouging should call the state Consumer Protection Division at (317) 232-6330 or (800) 382-5516.

Because of the prolonged power outage, INDOT said it has programmed two local Amber Alert highway signs to display the Red Cross number where motorists can call to find shelter: 471-7200.

The signs are at westbound Ind. 66, west of Interstate 164, and on I-164 southbound near the 13.3-mile marker, according to INDOT.

[Back to Severe Weather](#)



## Homeland Security says 3 Hoosiers killed

By [Bryan Corbin \(Contact\)](#)

Thursday, January 29, 2009

Digging out continued Thursday as Indiana recovered from a massive winter storm that caused extensive power outages in the Ohio River Valley and snarled traffic in the central part of the state.

Statewide, three weather-related deaths are being reported by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, including a woman who died in a traffic fatality in Crawford County and two heart attack deaths related to overexertion from shoveling snow, in Jackson and Daviess counties.

Dr. Stephen Cullen, the Daviess County coroner, did not have the name or age of the man who collapsed after shoveling snow Wednesday and died. However, Cullen was certain the death was weather-related, adding the victim had other health problems.

As of late Thursday, 107,575 customers remained without electricity statewide, down by half from a storm-related peak of 215,838. A total of 663 people were staying in emergency heating shelters in 13 counties, including Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Posey, Perry, Spencer and Dubois counties. Less than half of the total shelter capacity of 1,516 was in use late Thursday, the department reported.

"During cold spells when there are power outages, we encourage neighbors to look in on each other," department spokesman John Erickson said. "If you know someone who is elderly or differently abled, please check on them to make sure they are doing OK."

For Hoosiers facing more days without electricity, the department issued safety warnings for using generators: They should be operated in well-ventilated locations away from doors and windows, so exhaust fumes cannot enter the home. Officials recommend obtaining battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms if generators are used. Because of the risk of fire, generators must not be refueled while in use. Appliances should be plugged in directly to a generator or connected with a heavy-duty extension cord; do not plug a generator into a wall outlet, the department said.

Besides National Guard soldiers who assisted in transporting storm victims to shelters in Evansville, other state government workers helped in the recovery effort Thursday. Four sawing crews from the Department of Natural Resources were sent to Perry and Crawford counties to remove debris. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management was assessing water pressure and water quality at rural water utilities in

Leavenworth, Ramsey and Crawford County because of concerns about extended power outages affecting pumping stations, Erickson said.

As for state highways plowed by the Indiana Department of Transportation in the Indianapolis area, "The major interstates are clear and moving along like nothing happened," INDOT deputy commissioner of communications Bruce Childs said Thursday.

Late Thursday, the only state-run highway in Southwestern Indiana reported as still being closed was Indiana 162 because of downed trees and power lines, INDOT spokeswoman Cher Goodwin reported.

[Back to Severe Weather](#)



## Indiana Not Yet Seeking Federal Disaster Status After Storm

By Eric Berman

1/29/2009

It's too soon to tell whether Indiana will seek a federal disaster declaration, following a winter storm that dumped up to 13 inches of snow and an inch of ice on the state.

36 counties have declared snow emergencies, but those declarations are linked to whether it's safe to travel on the roads. Disaster aid is linked to financial damage.

Governor Daniels says the state's Department of Homeland Security is compiling damage estimates now. He says the most serious problems appear to be with the utility companies struggling to restore power to an estimated 120-thousand people in southern Indiana. Some residents may be blacked out till Monday.

Daniels doesn't plan to visit southern Indiana to view the aftermath of the ice storm, but says he's considering some kind of recognition ceremony for state highway workers, for what he calls tremendous work in minimizing road closures.

President Obama has declared disasters in Kentucky and Arkansas.

[Back to Severe Weather](#)



## What Does the “State of Emergency” Mean for You?

January 29, 2009

EVANSVILLE - Since the state of emergency has been declared in many Tri-State counties, you may be wondering exactly what that means if you *need* to go to work, or travel through the area. Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel's office sent us a note, laying out what the announcement does, and does *not*, mean, specifically for those in Vanderburgh County.

Read a full verbatim of the explanation below:

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*(EVANSVILLE, IN) ¿ There has been some confusion about what a ¿State of Emergency¿ means for the public and employers.*

*The Mayor and the Vanderburgh County Commissioners have declared that a ¿State of Emergency¿ exists in the City and County. This declaration of a State of Emergency has been prepared by the Evansville/Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency and sent to the State. It is the first step in the process of seeking State and Federal assistance. A local State of Emergency enables the City and County to ask the State for additional resources and assistance, like the activation of the National Guard. It is the first step in making the City and County eligible to recoup some of the costs incurred from a disaster such as damage to government structures and clean up.*

*If the disaster is of such a magnitude that the State would need assistance from the federal government, the Governor can ask the President to declare a ¿federal disaster declaration¿ for the state and county which would entitle us to federal assistance. Help for both residents and the government would be available at this point.*

*A State of Emergency is only valid for seven days and may be extended twice. However, it can be shorter than 7 days if necessary.*

*A State of Emergency does not prohibit travel. The City and County cannot prohibit travel under any circumstances. We can strongly suggest that drivers stay off the roads, but according to the law, we cannot issue tickets if people choose to drive anyway.*

*In addition to a State of Emergency, there is a system of warnings for winter weather that has been instituted by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (please see attached chart). These are the travel advisories that you have also heard issued over the past few days. A ¿Level 1¿ emergency is automatically triggered when a State of Emergency is declared. ¿Level 1¿ states that travel may be restricted to emergency personnel only. It is*

*important to note that travel *may be* restricted, which again means that the City and County cannot keep drivers off the roads.*

The bottom line is that a *State of Emergency* triggers mechanisms which allow the City and County to request additional resources and recoup costs associated with this winter weather. Despite the fact that we are under a State of Emergency and a Level 1 Travel Emergency, the City and County can only strongly recommend that people travel only when necessary. It is up to employers, schools, etc. to make their own determinations as to whether to remain open.

[Back to Severe Weather](#)

## Federal storm aid not likely, officials say

By Bryan Corbin

Originally published 09:10 a.m., January 29, 2009

Updated 09:10 a.m., January 29, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS — Miserable as it is for residents to be stuck under layers of snow and ice without electricity, this week's powerful winter storm might not be damaging enough to result in large-scale federal disaster relief, state officials said.

John Erickson, public information officer for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, said that if the storm results in any federal assistance, it likely would be to municipal and county governments to defray their costs of snow removal and spreading salt during the storm period.

"There could be a (local-government) assistance component to this snowfall for snow removal, and that would depend on a certification of a record or a near record (snowfall) by the National Weather Service," Erickson said.

The process of checking will start today, he said.

A one-day snowfall must be compared against the weather service's one-day record, a two-day snowfall against the two-day record, and so forth, to reach the threshold for qualifying for federal assistance.

Initially, at least, it appears unlikely that the storm would qualify individuals for direct assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"FEMA usually deals with uninsured damage and of a significant nature," Erickson said. "This (storm) has been a significant event; but it hasn't been the type of situation where it's caused widespread uninsured damage. It's been inconvenient — people had to be careful, there are power outages — and not to minimize that."

But as of Wednesday night, Indiana officials had not yet received any formal requests from snowbound counties to be designated as disaster areas, the first step to seeking federal disaster assistance.

“I’ll never say never; we might get a lot of reports and get surprised. But we’re just not seeing it right now,” Erickson said late Wednesday.

On Wednesday, Indiana National Guard soldiers were dispatched to Vanderburgh County to help transport storm victims to shelters.

[Back to Severe Weather](#)